

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-25 (Canceled)

26. (currently amended) A method of approving a document comprising:
storing the document in a central storage area, the storage area
preventing alternation or modification of the document during the approval
process;
advising ~~two or more approvers~~ an approver that the document requiring
approval is accessible for review and approval;
allowing ~~each~~ the approver to review the document;
prompting approval of the document by ~~each~~ the approver, said prompting
step includes displaying approval text;
obtaining the approver's agreement to the document and to the approval
text;
recording the date of approval ~~for each approver;~~ and
recording the displayed approval text; ~~and recording~~ for the approved
document.

27. (previously presented) A method of claim as recited in claim 26, further
comprising the step of generating an approval log.

28. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 27, further comprising
associating the approval log with a unique file record.

29. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 28, further comprising processing the approval log into an XML file.

30. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising multiple approvers approving a document and recording each approver's approval.

31. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 27, wherein the advising step comprises providing an email to the approver and providing a hyperlink to the document.

32. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the document is selected from a group consisting of a patent application, a trademark application, an assignment document and a power of attorney.

33. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising the step of allowing access to the central storage area to view the approval record.

34. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising ~~displaying approval text to the approver and storing this approval text in the~~ central storage area.

35. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising:
after said prompting approval step, an approver ~~does not approve~~ rejects the document;

repeating advising an approver that the document requiring approval is accessible for review and approval; repeating allowing the approver to review the document; and

repeating prompting approval by the approver.

36. (currently amended) A method of approving a document comprising:
- (a) storing the document in a central storage area, the storage area preventing alternation or modification of the document during the approval process;
 - (b) advising two or more approvers that the document requiring approval is accessible for review and approval;
 - (c) allowing each approver to review the document;
 - (d) prompting approval by each approver, said prompting step includes displaying approval text ~~and;~~
 - ~~(e) at least one of said approver not approving~~ approvers rejecting the document; ~~(e~~
 - ~~(f) repeating said advising step (b); (f~~
 - ~~(g) repeating said allowing step (c); (g~~
 - ~~(h) repeat said prompting step (d); (h) recording the date of approval for each approver; (i) recording the approval text; and (j) recording the approved document.~~
 - (i) obtaining approval by each approvers' agreement to the document and to the approval text;
 - (j) recording the date of approval for each approver;
 - (k) recording the approval text; and
 - (l) recording the displayed approval text for the approved document.
37. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 36, further comprising between step ~~(de)~~ and step ~~(ef)~~, changing said document.
38. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 36, wherein said two or more approvers approved the same document.
39. (new) A method of approving an invention disclosure document comprising:

storing the disclosure in a central storage area, the storage area preventing alternation or modification of the disclosure during the approval process;

advising two or more inventors that the disclosure requiring approval is accessible for review and approval;

allowing each inventor to review the disclosure;

prompting approval by each inventor, said prompting step includes displaying approval text for the disclosure;

obtaining approval from each inventor;

recording the date of approval for each inventor; and

recording the displayed approval text for the approved disclosure.

40. (new) A method of approving a patent application document comprising:

storing the application in a central storage area, the storage area preventing alternation or modification of the application during the approval process;

advising an approver that the application requiring approval is accessible for review and approval;

allowing the approver to review the application;

prompting approval the by the approver, said prompting step includes displaying approval text for the application;

obtaining approval the approver;

recording the date of approval from the approver; and

recording the displayed approval text the approver agreed to when the approver approved the application.

41. (new) A method of approving an invention disclosure document comprising:

(a) storing the disclosure in a central storage area, the storage area preventing alternation or modification of the document during the approval process;

(b) advising two or more approvers that the disclosure requiring approval is accessible for review and approval;

(c) allowing each approver to review the disclosure;

(d) prompting approval by each approver, said prompting step includes displaying approval text;

(e) at least one of said approvers rejecting the disclosure;

(f) repeating said advising step (b);

(g) repeating said allowing step (c);

(h) repeat said prompting step (d);

(i) obtaining approval by each approvers' agreement to the disclosure and to the approval text;

(j) recording the date of approval for each approver;

(k) recording the approval text; and

(l) recording the displayed approval text for the approved disclosure.

42. (new) A method of approving a patent application comprising:

(a) storing the application in a central storage area, the storage area preventing alternation or modification of the document during the approval process;

(b) advising two or more approvers that the application requiring approval is accessible for review and approval;

(c) allowing each approver to review the application;

(d) prompting approval by each approver, said prompting step includes displaying approval text;

(e) at least one of said approvers rejecting the application;

(f) repeating said advising step (b);

(g) repeating said allowing step (c);

(h) repeat said prompting step (d);

(i) obtaining approval by each approvers' agreement to the application and to the approval text;

(j) recording the date of approval for each approver;

- (k) recording the approval text; and
- (l) recording the displayed approval text for the approved application.